

warm-blooded animal in need thereof, which comprises a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier and, as an effective ingredient, an effective amount of (i) an interleukin-18 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6 and a functional equivalent of said interleukin-18, or (ii) said functional equivalent, wherein said functional equivalent is capable of exerting osteoclastogenic inhibitory activity and comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6, where one or more cysteine residues are replaced with a different amino acid residue(s) and optionally one or more amino acid residues are added to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6, or one or more amino acid residues in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6 are removed and or replaced with other amino acid residue(s) but having the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, and SEQ ID NO:4 as consensus partial amino acid sequences in SEQ ID NOs: 6 and 7.

30(New). The composition of claim 29, which is in the form of a liquid, paste, or solid.

31(New). The composition of claim 29, which further contains a stabilizer selected from the group consisting of proteins, buffers, saccharides, and mixtures thereof.

32(New). The composition of claim 29, wherein said warm-blooded animal is human.--